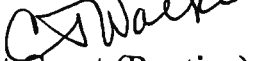


SUMMARY OF COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO SB 653

To: Representative Kevin Cotter
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

From: Judge Cynthia Walker 
Chief Judge, 50th District Court (Pontiac)

Re: Opposition to SB 653

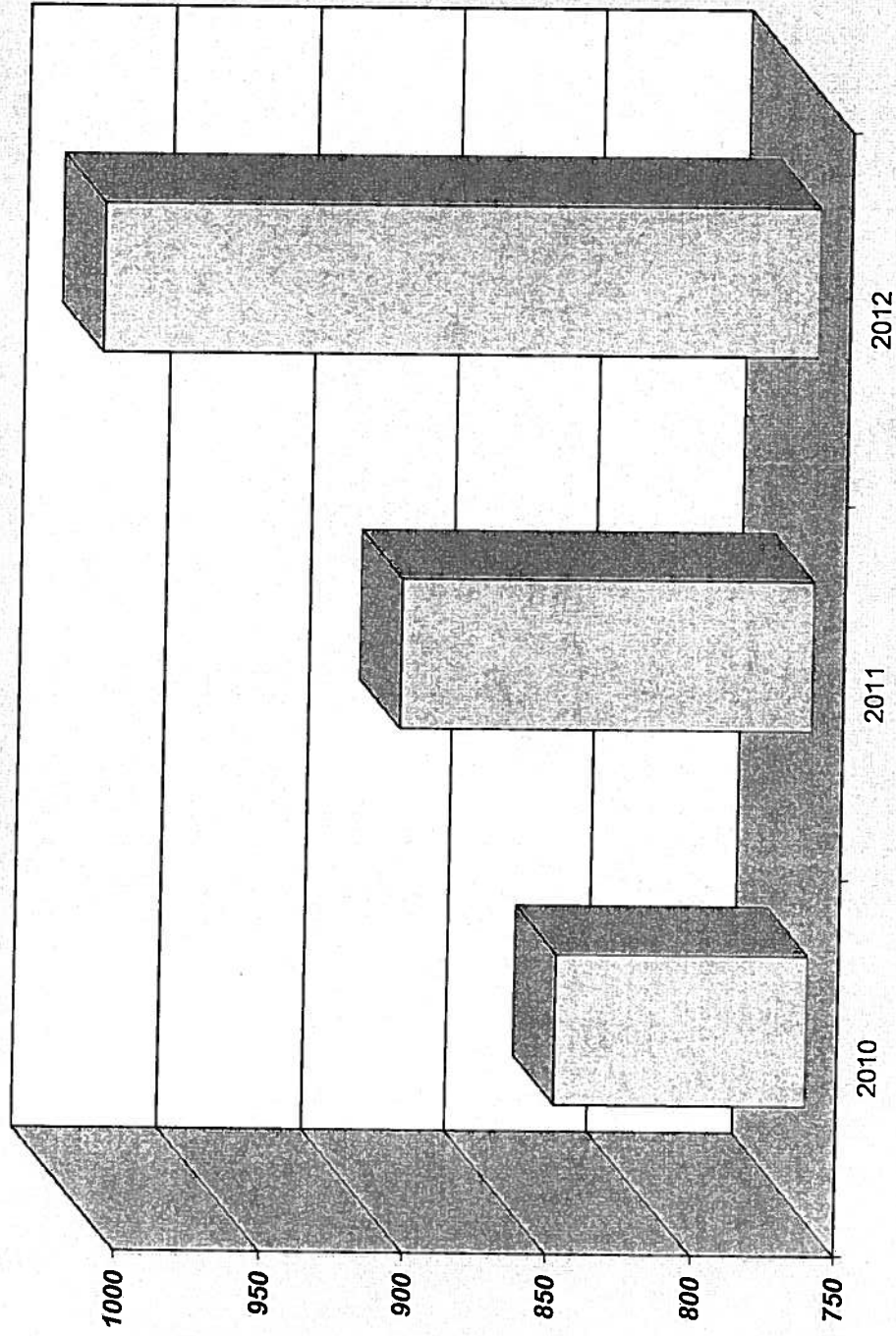
Date: November 7, 2013

The 50th District Court opposes SB 653 as written, specifically Section 8(C) in its entirety, which would reduce the number of 50th District Court judges to 2 by attrition.

Rationale for objection:

- The June 2013 State Court Administrative Office Judicial Resources Report does not recommend another judicial reduction for the 50th District Court.
- 50th District Court is already scheduled to lose one judge by attrition as a result of legislation passed after the August 2011 Judicial Resources Report. (You may recall that I testified before this Judiciary Committee in December 2011 and provided evidence that our caseload/workload significantly increased since the Oakland County Sheriff Department takeover of the Pontiac Police Department in August 2011. Our caseload was close to its lowest point at the time the 2011 study was conducted, due to the steady reduction and layoff of Pontiac police officers, eventually down to 50 officers.) *Exhibits A, B, C*
- The State Court Administrative Office ultimately recommended the elimination of only 1 judgeship at 50th District Court in 2011 based on additional data, and the Legislature adopted this recommendation.
- 50th District Court consistently has the highest felony caseload in Oakland County. *Exhibit D*
- The majority of these cases end up being bound over for trial to Oakland County Circuit Court, where the 2013 Judicial Resources Report recommends an addition of 2 judges.

50th District Court NEW Felony Case Filings
(Oakland County Sheriff Dept. Begins August 1, 2011)

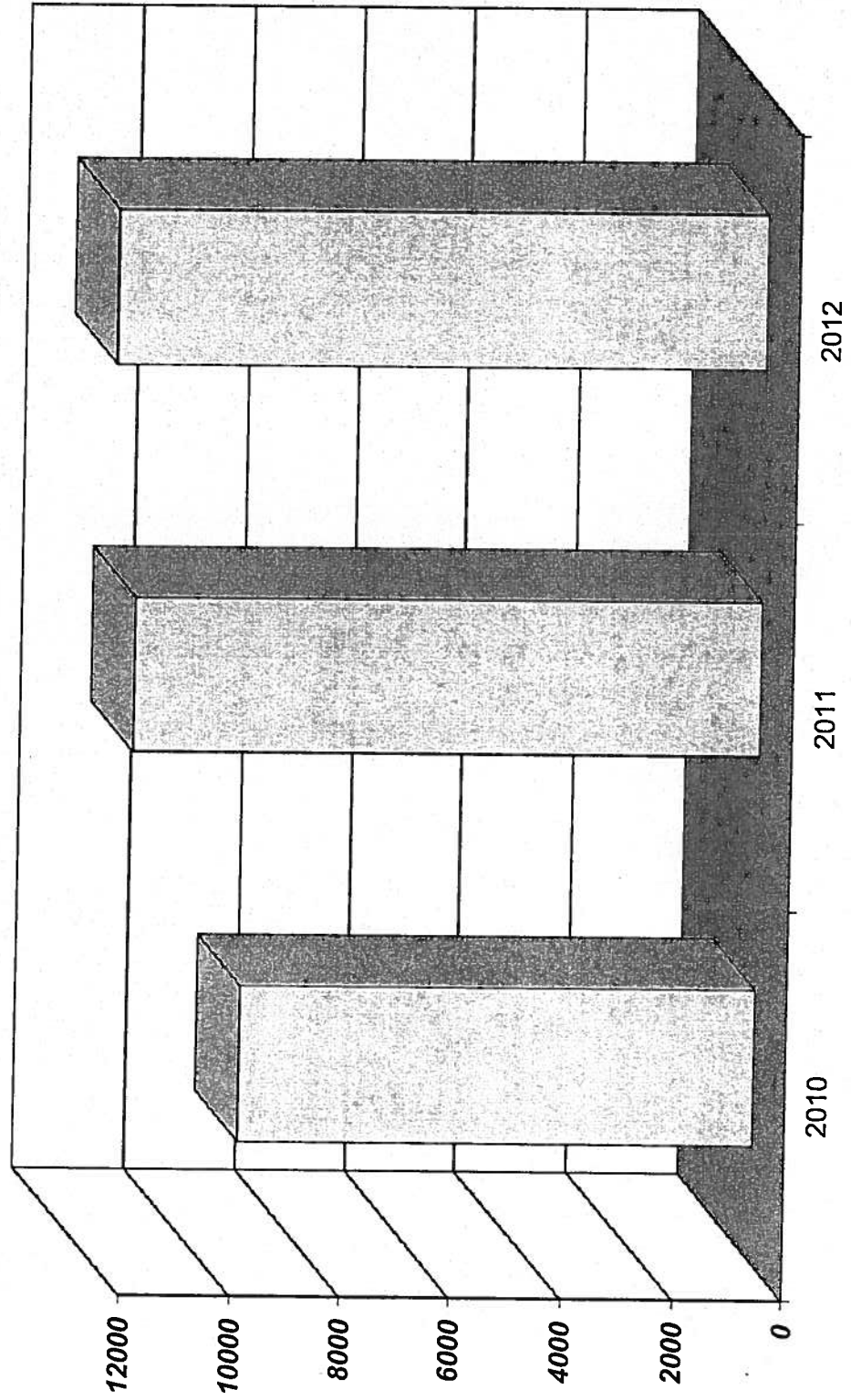


NEW
FELONY
CASES

2010	2011	2012
837	893	998

EXHIBIT A

50th District Court NEW Traffic Misdemeanors, Drunk Drivers, Civil Infractions



NEW
TRAFFIC
CASES

EXHIBIT C

2010	2011	2012
9318	11321	11716

Comparison Group	District Court Code and Jurisdiction	Census	* Felony	Percent Change from 2008	* Misdemeanor	Percent Change from 2008	Civil Infraction	Percent Change from 2008	General Civil	Percent Change from 2008
Third Class -										
Medium	D19 Dearborn	98,153	533	-14%	10,467	14%	45,430	-3%	4,663	-1%
	D16 Livonia	96,942	446	-4%	5,196	1%	29,422	-21%	2,127	-21%
	D33 Woodhaven, etc	90,549	256	-31%	3,542	-15%	11,756	-21%	2,848	-8%
	D46 Southfield, etc	90,361	533	-32%	3,951	-35%	38,210	23%	5,467	-8%
	D47 Farmington, Farmington Hills	90,112	304	-47%	3,180	-26%	17,373	-26%	2,707	-10%
	D18 Westland	84,094	215	-34%	7,777	-16%	18,952	-8%	3,345	-21%
	D34 Romulus, etc	82,229	453	-28%	6,877	-5%	56,147	-7%	3,330	-27%
	D62A Wyoming	72,125	459	-8%	7,437	32%	6,854	-35%	2,777	-15%
	D51 Waterford Twp.	71,707	261	-36%	1,394	-46%	4,030	-62%	2,478	-11%
	D43 Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Hts	66,016	494	-38%	7,520	2%	63,523	98%	2,762	-17%
	D23 Taylor	63,131	364	-28%	3,613	-24%	18,148	-64%	2,642	-20%
	D39 Fraser, Roseville	61,779	712	-22%	4,722	-8%	20,228	-5%	2,598	-13%
	D40 St. Clair Shores	59,715	464	-6%	6,181	19%	18,027	-1%	2,033	-12%
	D50 Pontiac	59,515	1,035	1%	5,204	34%	11,305	-15%	2,698	-32%
	D20 Dearborn Heights	57,774	266	-23%	2,702	-11%	24,352	-51%	2,689	7%
	D44 Royal Oak	57,236	157	-39%	2,969	-11%	106,441	6%	1,585	-12%
	D25 Ecorse, Lincoln Park	55,559	441	-2%	5,721	-7%	17,989	-18%	2,306	-22%
	D14B Ypsilanti Township	53,362	492	-4%	2,739	14%	4,196	-38%	2,470	-9%

Felony = EX, FY, FD, FT

Misdemeanor = OM, SM, OD, SD, OT, ST

Civil Infraction = OI, SI, ON, SN, OK, SK

General Civil = GC, GZ

Courts are sorted in descending order by population.

Comparison of Caseload Trends in Comparable Medium Sized Third Class District Courts

EXHIBIT E